

Lesson  
4

# Critic's Notes

## Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be used in reference to art or music.

**apocryphal** (uh PAHK ruh fuhl) ADJ. of doubtful authorship or authenticity *(Scholars judged the manuscript, attributed to Poe, to be apocryphal and therefore valueless.)*

**cassette** (kuh SET) N. cartridge holding magnetic tape for playing or recording sound or pictures *(Have you heard the cassette of the lecture?)*

**climactic** (kly MAK tik) ADJ. having to do with the most exciting or intense part *(The whole audience gasped during the climactic scene in the play.)*

**concerto** (kuhn CHER toh) N. a musical composition for soloists and orchestra with three contrasting movements *(A Mozart violin concerto is a good introduction to classical music.)*

**ebony** (EB uh nee) N. a hard, durable black wood from a family of tropical trees *(Piano keys are made from ebony, as are the handles of fine paintbrushes.)*

**encore** (AHN KOR) N. an additional performance at the end of a concert done at the request of the audience *(The audience clapped until the rock singer returned for an encore.)*

**endowment** (en DOW muhnt) N. permanent source of money given to a person or institution *(Our local art museum is fortunate to have a large endowment.)*

**illustrious** (i LUHS tree uhs) ADJ. famous; outstanding; celebrated *(The illustrious orchestra will tour in Europe, and all the concerts are sold out.)*

**mediocre** (MEE dee OH kur) ADJ. neither good nor bad; ordinary; not at all distinctive *(The audience suffered through the performance by the mediocre pianist.)*

**novice** (NAHV is) N. beginner *(You are just a novice at painting, but you have a sure sense of line and color that makes your work exciting.)*

**overture** (OH vur CHUR) N. orchestral introduction to a dramatic musical composition *(As the overture began, the lights dimmed, and the audience grew still.)*

**patron** (PAY truhn) N. person who provides support and approval to an art or artist *(Our symphony would not survive long without the generosity of each patron.)*

**refrain** (ri FRAYN) N. regularly recurring phrase or verse; chorus *(At folk concerts, the entire audience often joins in on the refrain of a song.)*

**reverberate** (ri VUR buh RAYT) V. to echo back; to repeatedly resound *(The tenor's swelling voice seemed to reverberate off the high domed ceiling of the concert hall.)*

**rhapsody** (RAP suh dee) N. musical composition that is free in form and often improvisational in nature *(The composer developed the short melody into a haunting rhapsody.)*

**rococo** (ruh KOH koh) ADJ. decorative style known for elaborate ornamentation *(Many museums house examples of beautifully detailed rococo wall panels.)*

**silhouette** (SIL oo ET) N. outline portrait, usually of a profile *(Even young children can create a silhouette using a black cutout on a white background.)*

**stimulate** (STIM yuh LAYT) V. to arouse or excite to activity and growth *(Frequently, one artist's work will stimulate another artist to greater excellence.)*

**superlative** (su PUR luh tiv) ADJ. supreme; unequalled *(At last night's concert, the playing of the Beethoven symphony was superlative.)*

**virtuoso** (VUR choo OH soh) N. person with a special skill in an art *(Due to her artistry with the cello, she was considered a virtuoso.)*